

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1-9. (cancelled)
10. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 40, wherein the distal tip of the guide rail is expandable to snugly fit within the patient's cervical canal.
11. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 10, wherein the distal tip of the guide rail is split into bifurcated portions.
12. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 11, wherein the bifurcated portions of the distal tip are curved.
13. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 12, wherein the curved bifurcated portions of the distal tip have different radii of curvature.
- 14-39. (cancelled)
40. (currently amended) An intravaginal tenaculum-like device for adjusting the position of a female patient's uterine cervix to facilitate intravaginal delivery of a therapeutic or diagnostic instrument, comprising:
  - a. an elongated guide rail which has a proximal portion with a proximal end configured to extend out of the patient during the procedure and to allow for the mounting of a medical instrument thereon and a distal portion with a distal tip configured for entry into the patient's cervical canal and which has a movable collar mounted thereon configured to intravaginally guide a medical instrument over the guide rail to the patient's uterine cervix;
  - b. a medical instrument movably mounted to the guide rail distal to the movable collar so as to be moved over the guide rail to the patient's uterine cervix by the collar; and
  - c. a driving member coupled with the guide rail proximal to the movable collar for selectively advancing the movable collar toward the distal end of the guide rail;  
and
  - ~~ed.~~ a tissue grasping assembly comprising
    - i. ~~a first elongated member which has a proximal section and a distal section with a distal end secured to a distal portion of the guide rail proximal to the distal tip of the guide rail;~~ and
    - ii. a second elongated member ~~which has a proximal section and a distal~~

~~section with a tissue grasping element on the distal end and which is pivotally connected to the first elongated member at a pivot point thereon proximally spaced from the distal end of the first elongated member so that the tissue grasping element on the distal end of the second elongated member moves so as to grasp the patient's uterine cervix at a location proximal to the distal end of the guide rail on the same side of the guide rail to which the distal end of the first elongated member is secured when the distal tip of the guide rail is disposed within the patient's cervical canal and the second elongated member is rotated about the pivot point to engage tissue.~~

41. (original) The device of claim 40, further comprising a securing element configured to maintain the tissue grasping element in contact with tissue when the distal end of the guide rail is disposed within said cervical canal.

42. (original) The device of claim 40, wherein the tissue grasping element has a sharp point.

43. (previously presented) The device of claim 40, wherein the guide rail is configured to receive a slidable coupling element attached to a medical device which is configured to be moved in a longitudinal direction along the guide rail by the collar to guide the medical device over the guide rail.

44. (cancelled)

45. (currently amended) The device of claim 40, wherein the guide rail has threads on an exterior portion thereof at a location proximal to where the distal end of the first elongated member is secured to the guide rail and the ~~collar~~ driving member has internal threads configured to operatively engage with the exterior threads and rotation of the ~~collar~~ driving member around a longitudinal axis of the guide rail is effective to provide longitudinal movement of the collar along the guide rail.

46. (currently amended) An intravaginal device for delivery of a medical instrument to a female patient's uterine cervix, related tissue or near-by anatomical structure, comprising:

- a. an elongated guide ~~means~~ rail which has a distal portion with a distal tip, which has a proximal portion with a free proximal end, which has a movable collar including a non-threaded internal lumen that enables the collar to slide freely over the outer surface of the guide rail along a longitudinal axis thereof and which is

configured to receive a medical instrument distal to the collar, ~~the collar being configured to guide~~ for guiding the medical instrument ~~to the patient's uterine cervix, related tissue or near-by anatomical structure~~ toward the distal tip of the guide rail; and

- b. a tissue grasping ~~means~~ assembly secured to the distal portion of the guide ~~means~~ rail distal to the collar and configured to grasp the patient's uterine cervix, related tissue or near-by anatomical structure at a location proximal to the distal tip of the guide ~~means~~ rail to facilitate delivery of the medical instrument over the guide rail to the patient's uterine cervix.

47-49. (cancelled)

50. (currently amended) The intravaginal device of claim 46, wherein the distal tip of the guide ~~means~~ rail is expandable to snugly fit within the patient's cervical canal.

51. (currently amended) The intravaginal device of claim 50, wherein the expandable distal tip of the guide ~~means~~ rail is split into bifurcated portions.

52. (currently amended) The intravaginal device of claim 51, wherein the bifurcated portions of the guide ~~means~~ rail are curved.

53. (currently amended) The intravaginal device of claim 52, wherein the curved bifurcated portions of the guide ~~means~~ rail have different radii of curvature.

54. (currently amended) An intravaginal device for delivery of a medical instrument to a female patient's uterine cervix, related tissue or near-by anatomical structure, comprising:

- a. an elongated guide rail which has a distal portion with a distal tip, which has a proximal portion with a free proximal end, which has a movable collar mounted on the guide rail, which is configured to receive a medical instrument distal to the movable collar, the collar having a non-threaded internal lumen adapted to slide freely over a threaded portion of the guide rail and being configured to guide the distally received medical instrument to the patient's uterine cervix, related tissue or near-by anatomical structure; and
- b. a tissue grasping member secured to the distal portion of the guide rail distal to the collar which is configured to grasp the patient's uterine cervix, related tissue or near-by anatomical structure at a location proximal to the distal tip of the guide rail to facilitate delivery of the medical instrument over the guide rail to the patient's uterine cervix.

55. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 54, wherein the distal tip of the guide rail is expandable to snugly fit within the patient's cervical canal.

56. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 55, wherein the expandable distal tip of the guide means is split into bifurcated portions.

57. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 56, wherein the bifurcated portions of the guide rail are curved.

58. (previously presented) The intravaginal device of claim 57, wherein the curved bifurcated portions of the guide rail have different radii of curvature.

59. (new) The intravaginal device of claim 54, further comprising a driving member disposed between the collar and the proximal end of the guide rail for selectively urging the collar toward the distal end of the guide rail, the driving member having internal threads adapted to engage the threaded section of the guide rail.

60. (new) An intravaginal tenaculum-like device comprising:  
a guide rail having a proximal end, a distal end, and an outer surface extending between the proximal and distal ends thereof, wherein the outer surface of the guide rail includes a threaded section;

a collar coupled with the guide rail and being adapted for sliding over the outer surface of the guide rail between the proximal and distal ends thereof, the collar having a non-threaded internal lumen that is slidable over the threaded section of the guide rail;

a driving member disposed between the collar and the proximal end of the guide rail for selectively urging the collar toward the distal end of the guide rail, the driving member having internal threads for engaging the threaded section of the guide rail;

a tissue grasping assembly including a first elongated element connected with the outer surface of the guide rail between the collar and the distal end of the guide rail, and a second elongated element pivotally connected with the first elongated element and having a tissue grasping element at a distal end thereof.

61. (new) The intravaginal device of claim 60, wherein the guide rail has a longitudinal axis and the driving member is rotatable about the longitudinal axis in a first direction for urging the collar toward the distal end of the guide rail.

62. (new) The intravaginal device of claim 60, further comprising a medical instrument slidably mounted to the guide rail distal to the movable collar so as to be moved toward the distal end of the guide rail by the collar.

63. (new) The intravaginal device of claim 62, wherein the medical instrument comprises a sleeve engagable with the outer surface of the guide rail for guiding advancement of the medical instrument along the longitudinal axis of the guide rail.

64. (new) The intravaginal device of claim 60, wherein a distal-most end of the guide rail is co-axial with the longitudinal axis of the guide rail.